

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a respiratory filter, said method comprising the steps of:

intermixing a granular adsorbent, absorbent, chemisorptive, or catalytic material, particularly activated carbon with a meltable polymer(s) to produce a mixture; and

molding the mixture in ~~[[the]]~~ a connecting part comprising an inner surface with a complete or partial groove or tongue so as to make a molded piece and a gastight connection between the molded piece and the inside surface of the connecting part so that the pressed molded piece respectively engages in or partially encloses the groove or tongue and, so that the molded piece and connecting part can be operatively connected as a unit to a respirator or fan filter unit.

2. (Currently amended) An apparatus for carrying out ~~[[the]]~~ a method according to claim 1 in which a mixture of for producing a respiratory filter comprising the steps of: intermixing a granular adsorbent, absorbent, chemisorptive, or catalytic material, particularly activated carbon with a meltable polymer(s) to produce a mixture; and molding the mixture in a connecting part so as to make a molded piece and a gastight connection between the molded piece and inside surface of the connecting part so that the pressed molded piece respectively engages in or partially encloses the groove or tongue and, so that the molded piece and connecting part can be operatively connected as a unit to a respirator or fan filter unit, wherein the intermixed granular adsorbent, absorbent, chemisorptive, or catalytic material, particularly activated carbon, is heated under pressure in ~~a mold~~ the connecting part with ~~[[a]]~~ the meltable polymer(s) and pressed into ~~a molded~~

piece, wherein the mold is a the connecting part for a respirator or fan filter unit and so that
there is a positive and/or non-positive gastight connection between said connecting part
and the ~~compacted~~ molded piece, wherein the connecting part comprises an inner surface
with a complete or partial groove or tongue which the pressed molded piece engages in
or partially encloses, respectively.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the connecting
part comprises a periphery with fasteners on it's the periphery for a detachable gastight
connection to a respirator or fan filter unit, or for a gastight connection to an adapter for
connecting to a respirator or fan filter unit.

5. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the
connection to the adapter is detachable.

6. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the fasteners
are designed for a snap-in or threaded connection.

7. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the
connecting part is made of a polymer with a higher melting point than the polymer(s) of the
molded piece, or of cardboard or metal.

8. (Previously added) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 further comprising the step of operatively connecting the respiratory filter to a respirator or fan filter unit.

9. (Previously added) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 8 further comprising the step of providing an adapter and the step of operatively connecting the respiratory filter comprises operatively connecting the respiratory filter to the respirator or fan filter unit through the adapter.

10. (Previously added) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 9 wherein the step of operatively connecting the respiratory filter comprises the step of snap-fitting the respiratory filter to the adapter.

11. (Previously added) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 wherein the step of molding the mixture comprises molding the mixture to make a positive gastight connection between the molded piece and the connecting part.

12. (Previously added) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing a connecting part comprises the step of providing a ring-shaped connecting part.

13. (Previously added) The apparatus according to claim 2 in combination with a respirator or fan filter unit wherein the respiratory filter is operatively connected directly to the respirator or fan filter unit.

14. (Previously added) The apparatus according to claim 2 in combination with a respirator or fan filter unit wherein the respiratory filter is operatively connected to the respirator or fan filter unit through an adapter.